LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 23, 1992/Chaitra 3, 1914 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Will you congratulate the hon. Minister Shri Madhav Rao Scindia for his half century which helped for the victory of the Lok Sabha Cricket Team yesterday?

MR. SPEAKER: We did it yesterday.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Why don't you congratulate him for India's performance in the World Cup?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Is there any objection to that also?

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Smoking and drinking on domestic flights

*347. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether smoking and drinking are allowed on domestic flights of the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons for announcing that smoking is prohibited; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to prohibit the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK): (a) Smoking is strictly prohibited on all domestic flights. Indian Airlines does not serve liquor on domestic flights. However, there is no ban on consumption of liquor by passengers during flights.

(b) Such in flight announcements are made to make the passengers aware that smoking is prohibited.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHIMAYANAND SWAMI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are taken to deal with cases where passengers smoke even after the announcement has been made?

[*English*]

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: Sir, for the time being, we have received no such cases that after the announcement also people are just smoking. When it comes to that level, we will request them not to do so. Then,

persuasive measures will always be there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister of an incident that took place while I was travelling from Trivandrum to Delhi on 4th February. An air-hostess was offering a lighter to a gentleman for lighting a cigarette. I have written to the hon. Minister regarding these things but have not received any reply so far. Is there any serious proposal to take steps in this direction?

(*English*]

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: We have not received any letter. If he can give the details of it, we will enquire into the matter.

(*Translation*]

SHRI CHINMAYANDAND SWAMI: Secondly, it was said that there is no ban on consumption of liquor by the passengers during flights. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that when consumption of liquor at public places is banned then what category does the aircraft fall under? If a passenger consumes liquor on board and then misbehaves in his state of inebriation, would that not be objectionable? Will consumption of liquor be banned on board to prevent such eventualities?

[*English*]

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: In the international flights, it is being allowed by the airlines, but in the local flights, some people bring their liquor and take it. If they misbehave with others, then there are other provisions to tackle them. But there is no such case now.

Power Generation Through Wind

*349. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for power generation through wind is underway;

(b) if so, the places where this project is proposed to be set up together with the expenditure involved and the quantity of power proposed to be generated therefrom;

(c) whether the cost of power generation through this method is cheaper than other means; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Wind Power Programme was started in 1985-86 with the first wind farm projects being commissioned in January, 1986. The wind farm programme is implemented through State agencies as demonstration projects on the basis of suitable wind speeds, recorded and analysed as part of the wind survey programme. In addition, a few private entrepreneurs have also put up grid-connected wind electric generators, utilizing the tax benefits made available by the Central Government and the facilities offered by the State Electricity Boards to wheel, bank and buy surplus energy. Loans at concessional rate of interest are also available to private entrepreneurs through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Apart from clusters of wind electric generators known as wind farms, individual grid-connected machines are also installed in locations where sufficient land is not available for wind farm projects. As on 31.12.1991, a total capacity of 38.3 MW commissioned and connected to the respective State grids, which includes 5 MW private sector projects. In addition, wind electric generators of a total capacity of about 25MW are under installation in various parts of the country, including 7 MW in the private sector.